

REMARKS

The Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough examination of the subject application and request reconsideration of the subject application based on the following remarks.

Claims 1, 8, and 11-12 are pending in the application. The specification has been amended to correct errors introduced during the translation process. Support for the amendments to the specification can be found in the original Japanese language international patent application. A marked up copy of the relevant passages supporting the instant amendments is attached herewith. No new matter has been introduced into the application by the instant amendments.

Claims 1, 8, 11, and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by Ishikawa (Nucleic Acid Symposium Series (1999), No. 42, pp 125-126).

Claims 1, 8, 11, and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being allegedly anticipated by Ishikawa (Nucleic Acid Symposium Series (1999), No. 42, pp 125-126).

The Examiner has alleged that the Ishikawa reference was published before July 15, 1999, which is the filing date of the Japanese priority application (JP 11-201450). The Examiner has not presented any evidence supporting a publication date for Ishikawa prior to July 15, 1999.

Enclosed is a copy of the title sheet, the copyright notice, and the table of contents for the binder prepared for the Twenty Sixth Symposium on Nucleic Acids Chemistry. The Symposium was held in Maebashi, Japan on November 10-12, 1999.

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Thus, Ishikawa is not prior art under 102(b) because it published less than one year prior to the filing date of PCT/JP00/04720. That is, Ishikawa did not publish at least one year prior to July 14, 2000.

Enclosed herewith are verified translations of the priority patent applications, i.e., 11-201450/1999, which was filed July 15, 1999, and 2000-133519, which was filed May 2, 2000. Claims 1, 8, 11, and 12 benefit from the July 15, 1999 filing date of Japanese patent application. Thus, Ishikawa is not available as prior art under 102(a).

For at least the reasons discussed herein, claims 1, 8, and 11-12 are in a condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection and reconsideration of the claims.

Applicants believe that additional fees are not required for consideration of the within Response. However, if for any reason a fee is required, a fee paid is inadequate or credit is owed for any excess fee paid, you are hereby authorized and requested to charge Deposit Account No. **04-1105**.

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Respectfully submitted,



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Appendix A

Relevant passages of PCT/JP00/04720 (WO 01/05801) providing support for the instant amendments to the specification.

Appendix B

Copy of the Title page, copyright information page, and table of contents for the published abstracts to the Twenty Sixth Symposium on Nucleic Acids Chemistry held in Maebashi, Japan on November 10-12, 1999

Appendix C

Verified translation of Japanese Patent Application No. 11-201450/1999, filed July 15, 1999

Appendix D

Verified translation of Japanese Patent Application No. 2000-133519, filed May 2, 2000